

REMARKS

The Office Action dated January 28, 2010 has been received and reviewed. This response, submitted along with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE), is directed to that action.

Claim 1 has been amended. Support for this amendment can be found in paragraph [0039] of the corresponding published US application, 2006/0157084 A1. No new matter has been added.

The applicants respectfully request reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claims 6, 11, 13-15 and 17-19 for having incorrect status identifiers. This oversight has been corrected herein.

Claim Rejections- 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 7-10 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Reeves (US 6,372,126). The applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

To anticipate a claim, the reference must disclose each and every element of the claimed invention. *Verdergaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of Cal.*, 814 F.2d 628, 2 USPQ2d 1051 (Fed. Cir. 1987). The applicants respectfully submit that Reeves fails to teach or suggest each and every element of the pending claims.

Reeves is directed to a chlorinator device for chlorinating fluid, most preferably in an aerobic waste treatment system, swimming pool or other system having a contained flowing fluid

requiring chlorination. (See Reeves, col. 1, lines 13-16; Abstract). Reeves' device does not contain a detergent bar comprising a surfactant, as presently claimed. As is well known in the art, a surfactant lowers the surface tension of water. Chlorine or chlorine tablets, as taught in Reeves, are oxidizing agents used for bleaching and disinfecting. They are decidedly not surfactants because they do not lower the surface tension of water. Accordingly, because Reeves does not teach all of the limitations of the presently claimed invention, Reeves cannot anticipate the present claims, and the applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections- 35 U.S.C. §102/103

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 7-10 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Jordan (US 4,338,191); and claims 16 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as obvious over Jordan or Reeves. The applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Jordan is directed to an apparatus for treating fluids emitted by, for example, septic tanks. (See Jordan, Abstract; col. 1, lines 4-11). Similar to Reeves, Jordan's apparatus contains a "treating agent" of a "disinfectant material", wherein chlorine is exemplified. A surfactant is never taught or suggested in Jordan.

Moreover, a person of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to modify *either* Jordan or Reeves to add a surfactant because both references are directed to apparatuses used to disinfect and treat water, not to use the water for cleansing purposes. Indeed, if a proposed modification would render the prior art invention being modified unsatisfactory for its intended purpose, then there is no suggestion or motivation to make the proposed modification. *In re*

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Gordon, 733 F.2d 900, 221 USPQ 1125 (Fed. Cir. 1984). Accordingly, the applicants submit that Jordan does not anticipate or render obvious the presently claimed invention, and respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw this rejection.

The applicants believe the claims are now in condition for allowance, and respectfully request such favorable action. If any issues remain, the resolution of which can be advanced through a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicant's attorney at the phone number listed below.

CONDITIONAL PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

If entry and consideration of the amendments above requires an extension of time, Applicants respectfully requests that this be considered a petition therefore. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee(s) due in this connection to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

ADDITIONAL FEE

Please charge any insufficiency of fees, or credit any excess, to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

Respectfully submitted,

NORRIS MCLAUGHLIN & MARCUS, P.A.

By /Mark D. Marin/
Mark D. Marin
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 50,842
875 Third Avenue, 8th Floor
New York, New York 10022
Tel. 212-808-0700